

MID-CITIES STAMP CLUB – THE EARLY YEARS

By Ray E. Cartier

At the end of 1972 there were six stamp clubs in the Metroplex.

- ✓ The General Dynamics Stamp Club restricted its membership to employees of General Dynamics Corp. (Now Lockheed). This club disbanded around 1975.
- ✓ The Panther City Stamp Club of Ft. Worth. On the occasion when I visited in the early 1970s it was made up of a few old guys and stuck with the same officers for years evidently because no one wanted to run for any of the offices. (Ralph Poore advised me that his father was the President in the early 1980s and that the club had picked up substantially at that time.. Also, there were some top level collectors involved in it.) I believe that it was disbanded in the early 1990s.
- ✓ The start-up Garland Stamp Club, which never got its footing as the founders couldn't get any momentum going.
- ✓ The Park Cities Philatelic Society. A great club that was open to everyone. Their meetings at the Walnut Hill Recreation Building in NW Dallas were lively and informative. They worked hard to attract youth. They ran the only stamp show in the area –PARPEX. In those days the heavy 8 page wooden frames and heavier thick glass backed by heavy backboards were awkward to mount, starting with having to clean both sides of the glass before setting these “A frames” up on rows of tables. But that club had a lot of volunteers who helped run those shows.
- ✓ The Dallas Stamp Collector's Club came off a little as elitist at the one meeting that I attended. However, new leadership and active programs have left this to be the only stamp club of this group that is still viable. They had 30 attendees at the last meeting I attended there a few months ago when I spoke to them.
- ✓ A Dalworth Stamp & Coin Club took a 1/3 page ad in our first POSTEX show program but had no contact info. Their ad stated that they started the Sunday Bourse, but I'd never heard of them otherwise

The Park Cities club was the only one that made itself open to Topical Collectors. My wife, Karen, is a Topicalist on folk tales, fairy tales, legends and Island Mythology, and I collect stamps on Mars, Jules Verne, and the explorer, Jacques Cartier, a 15 generation back uncle of mine. Those are in addition to my major interest in Space Exploration covers. Karen and I liked the Park Cities club a lot but it was a long drive to and from there so I decided to start a club in Arlington which had a population of 100,000 in 1973. Karen and I made 4 poster board announcements of our intention to form a stamp club, which the Postmasters of Arlington and Grand Prairie allowed us to hang in their post offices.

I sent an announcement to LINN Stamp News and the Arlington Citizen Journal and a Grand Prairie Newspaper, which included the draw: *“Whether your interest in the early classics or timely topical, US or foreign, First Day Covers or even varieties of trading stamps, there will be a place for you in a group that has no stuffy formalities. If you don't collect stamps but would like to learn, this should be the place to start. Make it a family affair if you care to and bring your stamps to our inaugural meeting where we'll discuss what you and others want in a stamp club”*

The first gathering was held in the then new” downtown Public Library on Wednesday, February 21, 1973 at 7 PM. 18 of us met and discussed what activities should be pursued, what name our club should be called, what would be the best meeting dates, would junior collectors be encouraged to attend, and who would volunteer to serve as the first officers. We decided to meet again in two weeks at the Library.

When we did, I was voted in as the President. Bob Boyd, who was a mere lad of 17, became our first vice-president and also member #2 of the newly named Mid-Cities Stamp Club so as to draw collectors from throughout the area from Irving to North Richland Hills. My wife, Karen, was elected to be the first Secretary and Treasurer. Meetings were set up for the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of each month. We also decided that we didn't want a stuffy, formal club, but one which could be enjoyable to all. In order to assure future generations of philatelists, we concluded one most desirable policy would be to welcome young collectors to all meetings. To ensure that our club would not get stale we wrote into our first by-laws that elected positions would be limited to just one term.

I continued sending out local publicity for awhile and new members started showing up at each meeting. But the Library closed too early for our needs and one of our members found a free meeting space in the home of the Arlington Daily News which met in what is today, *Metroplex Mission* on the SW corner of Abrams and West streets. But after a few months we had found ourselves to be locked out two or three times when they forgot about our meetings, and a new home had to be found. On January 23rd, 1974 we moved back to the downtown library for awhile. But having to have everything cleaned up and put back in place by 9 PM was not convenient. One of our members suggested that we try to get a place to meet in the new Arlington Community Center (Now the Bob Duncan Community Center) in Vandergriff Park.

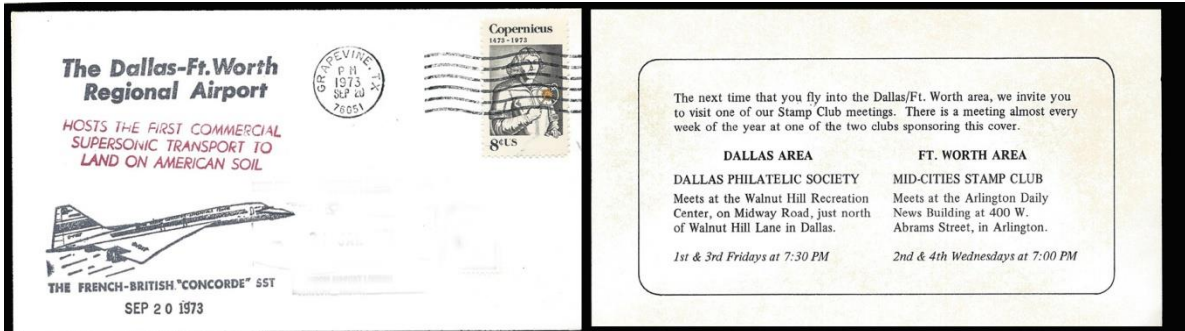
Our first overture was rebuked because those in charge told us that the club meeting rooms were reserved for only “cultural” organizations.

My reaction was, “what could possibly be more culturally represented than from a group of collectors who collected stamps from around the world? Our stamps pictured life in these countries from politics to religion from costumes to flora

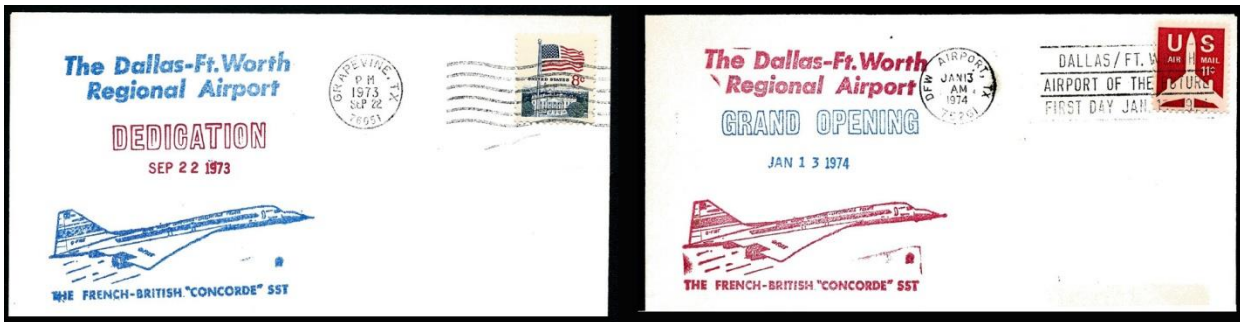
and fauna, from religion to food". I wrote a two page paper which I called "*The Cultural Aspects of Philately*" and even incorporated a quotation from the then US Postmaster General who referred to philately as being a culturally perfect blend of the world's populations. With that I was joined at the Community Center's next Board meeting by Karen, Bob Boyd, Fred Schindler, Dick and Anne Little, Don Siler and Ross Ott. I submitted my paper and spoke a few words to the Board of Directors.

A few weeks later we received a letter welcoming us to the Community Center at a cost of just \$10 per year for the room in which we are all still meeting in today.

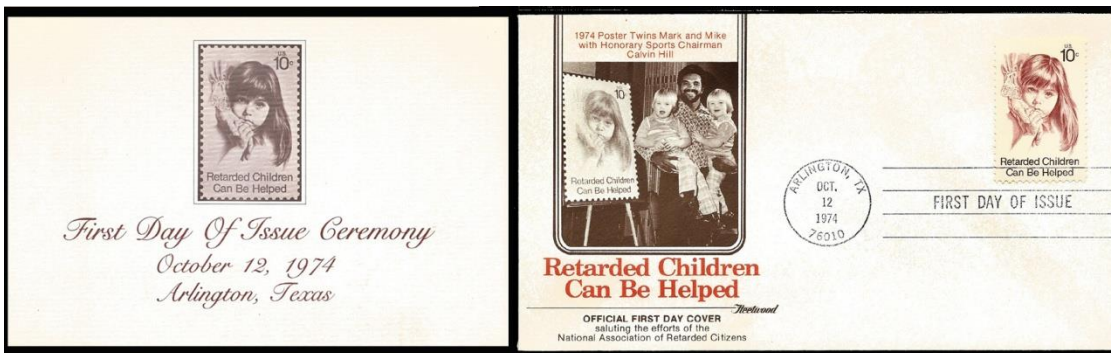
In January of 1973 a small club was founded in Irving, Texas. At their July meeting in 1973 the members of that club voted to approve a proposal to formally affiliate with the MCSC which had provided support since the Irving club became established. I don't know exactly when the Granbury Club did the same.



In September 1973 we teamed up with the Dallas Philatelic Society to produce 500 covers for the first landing of the Supersonic Concorde on American Soil. Inside each cover was a stuffer that promoted both clubs. This was followed by joint covers for the dedication of DFW Airport and for its Grand Opening



When the USPS announced that a stamp would be issued called "*Retarded Children Can Be Helped*" on October 12, 1974

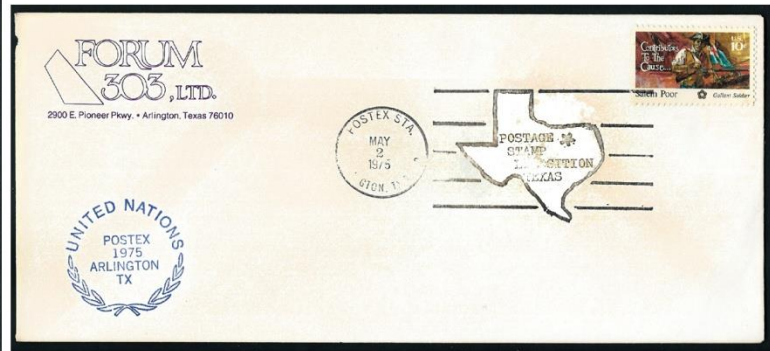
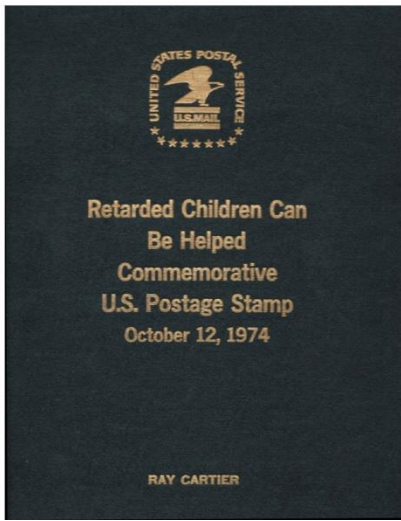


I contacted the President of the National Association for Retarded Citizens, which was then located in Arlington, to offer any manpower they might need at the ceremony or before or after. Our club was invited to provide ushers for the event.

I was surprised to receive the USPS Presentation Folder with an enclosed a sheet of the stamps as a result. See top of next page.

Our first newsletter was entitled "*Philatically Yours*", and issue # one was sent to members in December of 1974.

A major achievement of the MCSC during the early years was the staging of POSTEX exhibitions in 1974, 1975 and 1976. . POSTEX stood for Postage **PO** Stamp **ST** Exhibition **EX** – Texas **TEX**. Bob Boyd, then only 18 years old, became our first Exhibition Chair and he had NEVER even been to a stamp show! We borrowed frames from the Park Cities Philatelic Society for our first three shows which were all held in the Forum 303 Mall.



These were all wooden framed real glass frames which held only 8 pages. For our very first show we filled 200 frames, which would be the equivalent of 100 of today's 16 page frames. We had 62 exhibits from 45 different exhibitors. 20 dealers set up their tables in an open area and the mall later claimed that our show brought them so many more attendees to the mall that the store owners were all happy. In fact they were so happy that we were invited back for each of the next two years! The show attracted a lot of non-stamp collectors as well. The hours for this two-day show were from 9:00 AM to 9:00 PM on Saturday and 9 to 5 on Sunday with an Awards Breakfast at the Rodeway Inn at 8:00 AM. The Rodeway Inn even took out a single page ad in our program. The cost of the Banquet tickets was \$3.75! The inside front cover of our program had a full page ad from the Valley View Shopping Center and the inside back cover had a full page ad from the Forum Mall.

Forum 303 Mall
SPUR 303 & HWY. 360
Arlington

Sponsored by
MID-CITIES STAMP CLUB
ARLINGTON, TEXAS

MID-CITIES STAMP CLUB
OFFICE ADDRESS: 2001 W. 17th
ARLINGTON, TEXAS

MEETING ADDRESS:
2900 E. PIONEER HWY.
ARLINGTON, TEXAS

Welcome to the first Postage Stamp Exhibition and Bourse, sponsored by the Mid-Cities Stamp Club of Arlington, Texas. Whether you are an active collector or just browsing, we think that you will be glad to share the enjoy yourself while viewing the results of our efforts. The exhibits that you will see here have been chosen by people who have researched and organized parts of their collection into stories, just for you, the viewer. If you haven't particularly been by an event of this sort before, read the first page of each exhibit; as this will generally give you an idea of the purpose of the exhibit. Take a look at the map that the pages are arranged chronologically. Look at the medals that are being displayed; these medals, along with the philatelic exhibits for stamps, are the basis of the exhibits. After you have seen the exhibits, you can visit the dealers' tables. A special lounge will be set up for you to rest and relax. A special lounge will be set up for you to rest and relax. A special lounge will be set up for you to rest and relax.

Visit the dealers who are here to order items for every conceivable stamp collecting interest. And if you'll pass by the various other tables, you'll find representatives from numerous stamp clubs and associations who are waiting to assist in the educational aspects of philately.

Throughout this area, there are several stamp slides, all of which invite you to visit with them as one of their future meetings. Free with an obligation. Here in the Arlington area, the Mid-Cities Stamp Club meets before, during, and after the exhibition, slides, lectures, group study, and general trading. There are no age limitations on our club and in our meeting this year we had 27 members and guests with us age five to nearly four years of age! There is a very different group that is just over a year old. In our short time of life we have had a number of our boys, all have directly participated in one of the three big events that led to this exhibition: North Airport, dedication, landing of the Concorde, and grand opening.

Was, combined with our joining the Texas Philatelic Association, the American Philatelic Society, and the Society of Philatelic Societies, combined by our membership in this club, give you a good indication of the potential of our club. Visit our hospitality table and meet with some of our club representatives. We would like to share our future growth with you.

Thanks for coming out to POSTEX. Please plan to visit with us at our next club meeting.

Bob Cartier
President - Mid-Cities Stamp Club

PROGRAM

Saturday, May 11
9:00 A.M. Opening of Bourse, USPS Booth, and Exhibits
10:00 A.M. The color slide presentation, *Days on Stamps*, will be presented by the local chapter of the ATA.
12:00 P.M. The slide program, *Sputnik to Eagle*, will spotlight space covers to the soundtrack of National Geographic's special recording on space narrated by astronaut Frank Borman.
1:00 P.M. Meeting of area philatelists to discuss the formation of a regional philatelic organization.
2:00 P.M. A 16mm sound film, *Memorandum of Peace-International Zone*, will take viewers on a tour of the United Nations building, including a meeting of the stamp design committee, a close-up of the Chagall window and a trip to the European Headquarters.
3:00 P.M. Judging begins.
4:00 P.M. The ATA will feature *Flags on Stamps*.
4:00 P.M. The movie *Night Mail*, 16mm sound will describe a postal train. (Film is missing in transit as of publication.)
7:30 P.M. A two part special slide show will be shown entitled, *The Drama of Postage Stamp Creation*. All stages of stamp production are shown for each method.
9:00 P.M. Bourse and Exhibits close.

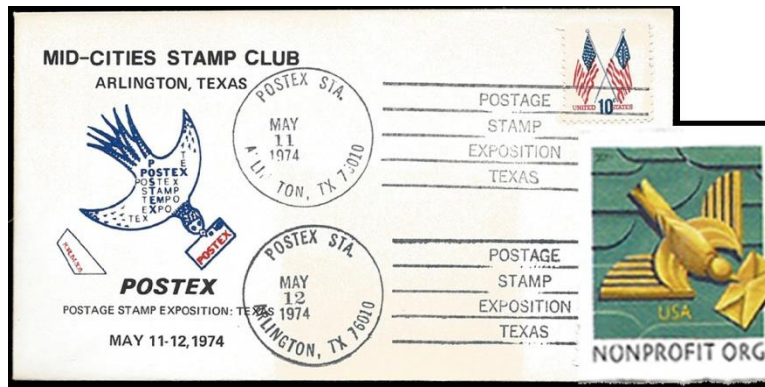
Sunday, May 12
8:00 A.M. Awards breakfast at the Rodeway Inn, on Hwy. 360 at the turnpike. Guest speaker - Mr. Joseph Balogh, President of the TPA. His talk will be on "A New Aspect of Collecting."
10:00 A.M. Bourse and Exhibits open. ATA will present *Ships on Stamps*.
11:30 A.M. *The Pony Express Story*, a 16mm film from Indiana University.
1:00 P.M. British Government slide show entitled *British Stamps*.
3:00 P.M. Government of Israel film entitled *A Stamp is Born*, showing development and creation of Israeli stamps.
3:45 P.M. Meeting of area philatelists to discuss the formation of regional philatelic organization.
4:00 P.M. ATA slide show, *Animals on Stamps*.
5:00 P.M. Bourse and Exhibits close.

DEALERS' BOURSE

Our appreciation is expressed to the following stamp dealers who have come from many cities to offer philatelic material for your collecting pleasure. So, stop at their tables, introduce yourself, that philatelic item you are looking for may be among the many fine stamps stocked by POSTEX dealers.

RALPH N. NORMAN Richardson, Texas	JOHN W. KOBO Houston, Texas
WILLARD C. JACKSON Fort Worth, Texas (See advertisement in program)	SHELDON'S & ASSOCIATES Bill Shelton San Antonio, Texas
FRATT'S COIN & STAMP SHOP Pat Fratt Abilene, Texas	PERMAN STAMP CENTER John Talsandge Big Spring, Texas
HOUSTON HOBBY CENTER, INC. Jack W. McManan Houston, Texas	CARVER & COMPANY Dwight & Carolyn Carver Lubbock, Texas
CROWN COLONY STAMPS L. W. Martin, Jr. Bellevue, Texas (See advertisement in program)	METROPLEX STAMP COMPANY Fred F. Schindler Grand Prairie, Texas (See advertisement in program)
GARY HENBERSHOFF Little Rock, Arkansas	E. A. "TED" SCHURMAN Arlington, Texas
S. S. KAHN Dallas, Texas	CHAGI GROWER Harlingen, Texas
GREENE-PIETZSCH STAMPS Fred Greene & Sid Pietzsch Dallas, Texas	J. R. "JACK" HESTER Grand Prairie, Texas (See advertisement in program)
WILLIAM E. FROEMST STAMP CO. William E. Froemst Grandview, Missouri	ELLENBURG'S CHOICE U.S. STAMPS El Paso, Texas
FAYLOR'S STAMP & COIN Bob Taylor San Antonio, Texas	IRVING STAMP COMPANY H. Susat Irving, Texas

Mall stores, Toys by Roy, Piccadilly Restaurant and the Blue Hawaii Restaurant all placed ads with us along with ads from 9 dealers, the Texas Stamp Dealers Assn., the Texas Philatelic Assn/, Apfelbaum, The Western Stamp Collector and the Dalworth Stamp & Coin Club. White Ace Albums and Souvenir Pages took the back cover. We had over 11 paid pages of advertising in our 24 page program. We also had 11 Slide shows and 16 mm movies plus two meetings with three speakers. And all we had were 40 members of our club, most of whom were involved in some way with the show. We didn't know much at all about staging a show but that proved to be a benefit. Otherwise we never would have invited, and got, the United Nations to host a table at our show, which they did, and we might not have thought about inviting the Arlington Postmaster, who really enjoyed participating in our show, even helping with promoting it. .

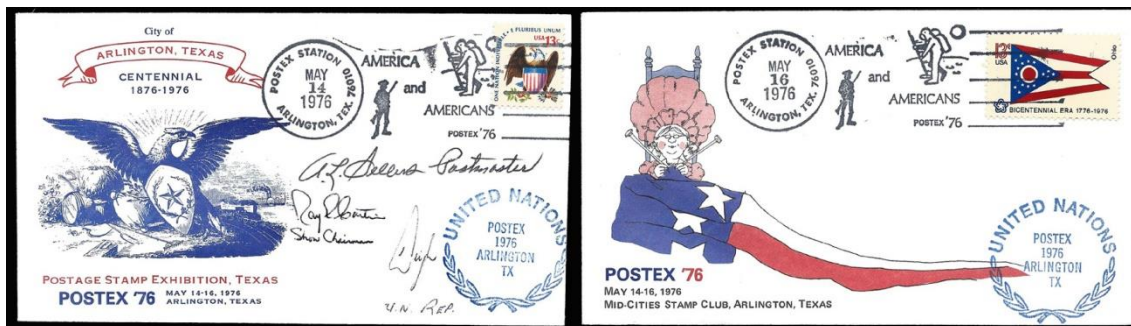


Our show logo pictured a dove with a letter in its bill. When the US issued a non-denominated "Nonprofit Organization" postage stamp in 2011 (Scott 4496), the image was strikingly similar to our 1974 show cachet

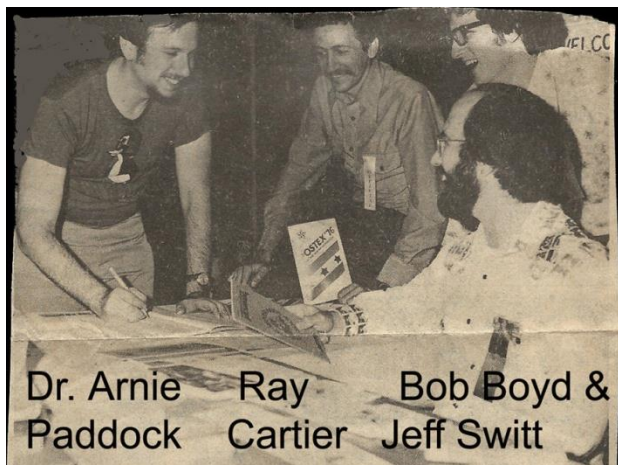


POSTEX 1975 was held at the same venue and that year we invited, and got, the United Nations to host a table at our show, which they did. I couldn't locate a copy of that program but shown are the three different cachets we used on each of the three days of our show. Note that the reason for show an Arab with a camel and a bag of money in front of the Alamo was that a sheik had just tried to buy the Alamo for gold so he could have it taken apart, shipped to the Sahara and rebuilt. The stuffer for that cover told the full story.

Since this was only our second show, we weren't aware of the fact that we were too small a show to have the United Nations take a table there and apply their UN rubber stamp to covers. So in our ignorance we invited them and they came. Bob Boyd was again the Show Chairman.

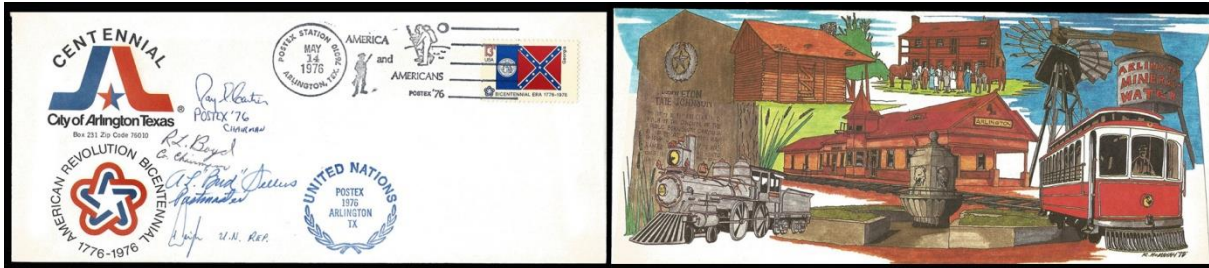


For our 1976 show we invited the Arlington Independent School District to have students from the 3rd through 6th grades try to design a cancellation for the Bicentennial of the United States. We selected two members of our club and the Arlington Postmaster to vote on the best that was received Because 1976 was the Centennial of Arlington, Texas, our second show cover tied in to that event.

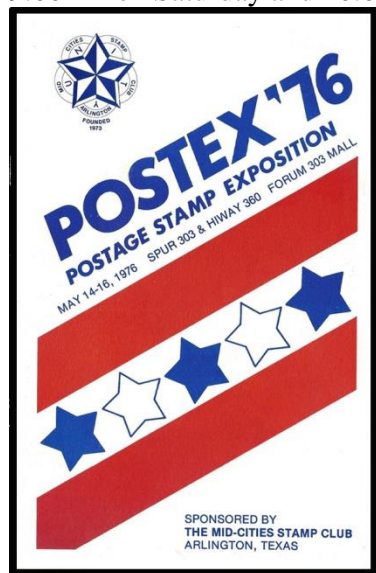


Dr. Arnie Paddock Ray Cartier Bob Boyd & Jeff Switt

That generated a photo in addition to publicity in the local papers, picturing a sixth-grade student getting a prize from our postmaster and each of the two show covers on which the postmaster had applied the cancel that was adapted from his artwork. The *Citizen-Journal* published a photo of Dr. Arnold Paddock; Ray Cartier – Club Treasurer responsible for publicity and co chair with Bob Boyd, who handled Exhibits, and Jeff Switt, who was then the President of the MCSC and handled Advertising, cachets and the program. (Att. P). VP Richard Little handled the Awards and Karen Cartier was the show coordinator. Fred Schindler was a dealer and our dealer contact for our shows.



The City of Arlington produced a great #10 envelope for the event and the above pictures both the front and back of that cover. The General Dynamics Stamp Club created a Local Post for POSTEX 76 and had it cancelled with our bicentennial postmark. Our show was recognized by the Arlington Bicentennial Committee and was listed in the ARBC Master Calendar of Events. I don't have a copy of our third cover which pictured the Liberty Bell. The United Nations returned to our show for a second time. Our membership had dropped to just 37 members at the time of the show. And the Banquet Tickets at the Rodeway Inn changed from a breakfast event to a dinner event and the price climbed to \$6.95 which included a gratuity. Our array of dealers jumped up to 27! Our Star club logo made its first appearance at the show and was designed by President Jeff Switt. The Star is the Lone Star of Texas and the arcs connecting the points represent the geographic areas outlying Arlington. The facets of the Star represent the many and varied areas of UNITY representing the underlying bond of all the MCSC members who reside both within and outside the City limits of Arlington Below the logo is written: "Founded 1973". Club meetings had moved out to 7:30 PM on the first and third Wednesdays. The show ran from noon to 9:00PM on Friday, 9:00AM to 9:00PM on Saturday and 10:00AM to 5:00PM on Sunday.



In 1977 a collector in Dallas, Sam Wilkinson, who had started an American Topical Association Chapter in Dallas, invited the American Topical Association to bring their annual TOPEX (now the National Topical Stamp Show) to Dallas. Bob Boyd drove down to Houston to borrow additional frames for this show. The U-Haul trailer had a flat and Bob left it to get the tire repaired. A semi-trailer crashed into the parked trailer, rolling over the fender and broke a lot of the glass for which we were responsible.

When Sam tried to find volunteers to help with TEXPEX, it was the MCSC that came to his rescue. As a result we were listed as hosting the event. Of the 7 people who ran and operated the show, Sam and a collector from Dallas named Robert Pratt who handled publicity and acted as treasurer, were the only non MCSC members. The MCSC members were Karen, Bob Boyd, Fred Schindler, me and Russell Ott. Not one person from any of the other clubs lent any type of help and we did all the work ourselves. Schindler handled the dealers leaving six of us to handle all of the details. We were frustrated at the lack of assistance from area collectors were so disappointed in the lack of help by anyone else that Karen, Bob, Fred, Russ and I all dropped out of the MCSC for several years. I never saw Sam, Pratt, Schindler or Ott again. In 1998 the club issued a cover commemorating the Silver Anniversary of our club. Today, 44 years after the creation of the MCSC, the club is still alive, still kicking and is the best stamp club in North Texas.. A lot of great leadership followed those of us who got the club started, have led the club's growth and reputation rise to where it is today.